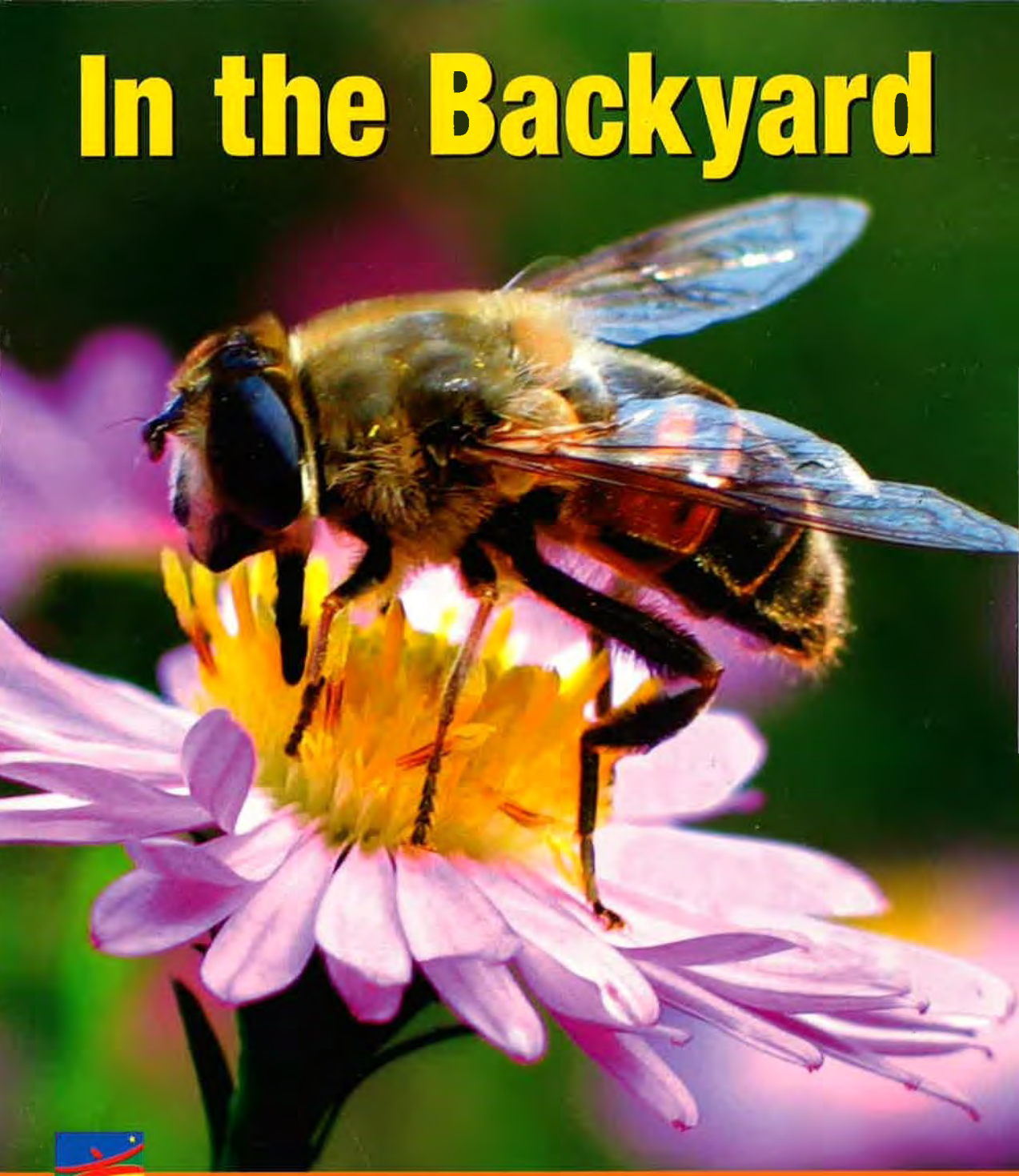
In the Backyard



Benchmark EDUCATION

by Kira Freed

Level 20 K Word Count: 480*

The Big Idea

This book discusses backyard habitats, and focuses on the plants and animals that live in backyards.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Make connections

Comprehension:
- Identify stated main idea and supporting details

Phonics:
- r-controlled o syllable patterns (for, important, more, or)

Fluency:
- Read with appropriate stress or emphasis

Tier Two Vocabulary:
- beautiful, cool, few, hollow, large, sink, special, tiny, warm

Tier Three Vocabulary:
- animals, backyards, dry, food chain, gardens, habitats, insect, plants, pollen, rocks, roots, shelter, soil, water, weather, wet

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Use the conjunction "and"
- Use homonyms (place, plant, rock, sink, type)

Sentence Patterns:
- _____ in _____.
- _____ use _____.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

Early Explorers
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Credits:
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What living and nonliving things are in backyards?





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by Kira Freed

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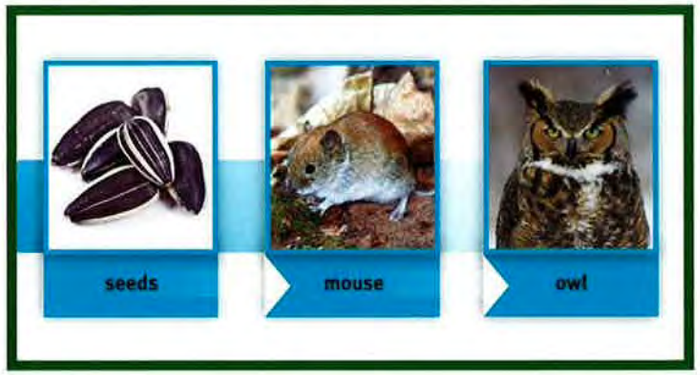
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I need to know these words.

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food chain



habitats



insect



pollen



shelter



soil



What Is a Habitat?

A **habitat** is a place with living things. Plants and animals live in habitats. Habitats have nonliving things, too. Rocks, **soil**, and water are in habitats.

Some habitats have large amounts of water. ▶



▲ Many plants and animals live in this habitat.

Habitats have different types of weather. Some habitats are wet and other habitats are dry. Habitats may be warm or cool. Different things live in different habitats.

◀ Many things live in this wet habitat.



▲ A desert is a dry habitat.

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A backyard can be a habitat. A backyard has living and nonliving things. Different backyards have different living things. The weather and soil are also different. We can study backyards to learn about habitats.



◀ This backyard gets a large amount of rain.



▲ The soil in this backyard is sandy.

Some backyards are in cities. Other backyards are in the country. Backyards may be large or small.

This small backyard ▶ is in a city.



▲ This large backyard is in the country.

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Why Are Plants Important to a Backyard?

Plants help other living things in backyards. Some backyards have tall trees. Grass grows in many backyards. Some plants in backyards have flowers. Other plants have fruit. What plants live in your backyard?



▲ Many plants grow in this backyard.

Backyards in different places have different plants. Some plants need water every week. Other plants need water only every few months.

Rain falls on these plants many days each year. ▶





▲ A cactus can live a long time without water.

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